'Bhagvadgeeta as Rashtriya Dharam-Shastra'

†118. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the High Court of Allahabad has suggested to make Bhagvadgeeta as 'Rashtriya Dharam-shastra'; and

(b) if so, whether there is any constitutional or legal hindrance in doing so?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It would not be legally and constitutionally feasible to do so.

Transparency in judiciary

†119. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister in his inaugural speech in All India inter-departmental co-operation conference organized in Delhi in August, 2006, expressed concern over lack of honesty in some sections of judiciary and emphasized the need for transparency and for providing speedy justice to the citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any measures for ensuring honesty and transparency in the judiciary and for speedy justice to the citizens, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his address to the National Meet on Social Justice and Legal Empowerment held on August 19, 2006 has *inter-alia* observed as follows:

"....there are concerns often voiced in various quarters about the delays in disposal of cases and the consequent backlog that has built up over the years. There is concern about the cost of litigation and the cost of obtaining justice. There is growing concern also about probity—or the lack of it-in some sections of the judiciary. I have said this before, and I say this again, that we take great pride in the quality and effectiveness of our judicial system. But in the larger scheme of governance, it is incumbent upon any healthy institution to continue to reflect from time to time on its role, on the expectations from it and on the scope for improvement. This will help us take steps to improve our performance and to meet the fast changing needs of the times that we live in. Above all, it will make our justice delivery system more sensitive to the needs of the poorest of our people. Especially those who are most discriminated against in our society."

Allegations of deviant behaviour involving acts of corruption and moral turpitude against some Judges of High Courts and some members of Judicial Service of the States have come to the notice of the Government. The Chief Justice of a High Court has the competence to receive and look into complaints against the conduct of a Judge of his Court. In some recent cases, the Chief Justice of India set up inquiry committees under in-house procedure to deal with cases of deviant behaviour of Judges. As regards the members of Judicial Service of a State, under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative and disciplinary control over the members

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.